



Outreach Programs

Background

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers farm commodity and conservation programs and makes loans to farmers unable to obtain conventional credit.

The Outreach Programs Staff informs farmers and ranchers about FSA programs and services. Its goal is to increase the participation of the underserved, including limited resource farmers, in FSA programs, with special emphasis on those who are socially disadvantaged or members of racial minority groups.

To aid in the advancement of socially disadvantaged groups, FSA's goal is to eliminate the following barriers to participation in its programs:

- Racial and ethnic discrimination;
- Language barriers;
- Lack of education;
- Lack of financial resources;
- Cultural attitudes.

Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers include:

- African-Americans;
- American Indians/Native Americans and Alaska Natives;
- Asians and Pacific Islanders;
- Hispanics;
- Women.

The FSA Outreach Programs Staff:

- Assists limited resource and socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to improve their income through better farm management and financial planning;
- Assures that the underserved, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers participate fully in FSA state and county committee elections;
- Works with community-based organizations (including churches and social groups; 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land Grant colleges and universities; Hispanic-serving institutions; and tribally-controlled colleges) to provide technical assistance and training to limited resource and socially disadvantaged family farmers;

- Partners with community-based organizations to enhance program delivery to underserved communities.

Where to Go for More Information

Further information about FSA programs and outreach efforts is available from FSA local offices. These are usually listed in telephone directories under United States Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Or . . . you may obtain information on outreach by contacting:

USDA/FSA
Director
Outreach Programs Staff
Ag Stop 0511
Room 3718
Washington, D.C. 20250-0511
Telephone: (202) 690-1098

For more information about this or any other FSA program, visit us on the world wide web at:
www.fsa.usda.gov

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